

Proposition 63: The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation

The MHSA and Innovation

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) requires the delivery of programs and services (i.e., Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and Community Services and Supports (CSS)) that have demonstrated effectiveness (i.e., are successful, show positive outcomes). However, it also recognizes the need to expand the set of programs and practices recognized as effective. The Innovation (INN) component of the MHSA funds exploration of new or adaptive approaches in community mental health.

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approves Innovation project spending.

Since 2009,

- 209 Innovative Projects have been approved, and approximately 50 projects have been completed or ended early.
- 57 of 59 counties (which include Berkeley and Tri City) have had at least one approved Innovative Project.

Innovation Definition

Innovations are designed to do one of the following:

- Introduce a mental health practice or approach that is new to the overall mental health system, including, but not limited to, prevention and early intervention (PEI).
- Make a change to an existing practice in the field of mental health, including but not limited to, application to a different population.
- Apply to the mental health system a promising community-driven practice or approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings.

Innovation can occur in virtually any aspect of the community mental health system, including administration, governance, and advocacy.

Primary Purpose

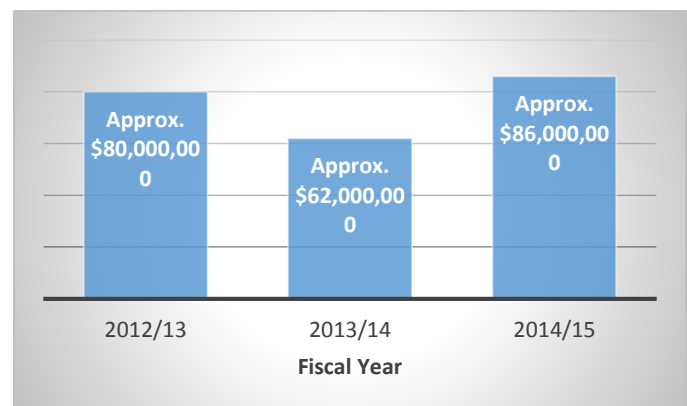
Innovations should result in one (or more) of the following:

- Increase access to mental health services to underserved groups.
- Increase the quality of mental health services, including measurable outcomes.
- Promote interagency and community collaboration related to mental health services or supports or outcomes.
- Increase access to mental health services.

Innovation Funding

Five percent (5%) of total funding for each county mental health program for Community Services and Supports (CSS) and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) is reserved for Innovation (INN).

Funds available by fiscal year for Innovation:



Evaluation

Innovations are short-term. At the end of the project, a County must decide whether funding should continue using a different source (like CSS or PEI). Evaluation data is used to support decision-making. Evaluations can be qualitative, quantitative or a mix of both and can be formative or summative, outcome or process.

